

A.2.5.1 Mackereth's Cottage, Matthew Road, Dorset Vale

A.2.5.1 Former House—Mackereth's Cottage, Matthews Road, Dorset Vale. Grid Reference: Noarlunga 884 148, Section 285, (now Section 1427), Hd Noarlunga.

Previous Endorsements: National Trust of SA Reg No 507, Classified List. Registered item of National Estate.

Construction date: 1840s (?) Partly rebuilt 1876 after bushfire damage.

Original Owner: George Mackereth.

Brief description and history: George Mackereth and William Hill were among the earliest settlers of this area previously known as Scott's Bottom. George Mackereth (sic) is first mentioned in *Cotter's Almanack* of 1843 as situated at Scott's Bottom, while *Murray's Almanack* of 1847 notes Macrith (sic) as located at Cherry Gardens (a short distance to the north). In 1855-56 McKereth (sic) is noted as owning and occupying Sections 285 and 775 including a hut. It is likely that this hut mentioned in the Assessment Books is incorporated into the building, the subject of this description. Although Mackereth was only formally granted Section 285 Hd. Noarlunga on 18 November 1854 (CT 7/219), the house is likely to have pre-dated this owing to Mackereth's early occupation of the area. In 1876 the building, in particular the roof, was damaged by a bushfire which swept from Coromandel Valley to Echunga.

The building has been used as a National Trust Museum.

This rectangular single-storeyed cottage is built of sandstone rubble with large roughly squared quoins, and appears to have been built in three main sections. The roof is typical of the early cottages with its M-shaped structure clad in shingles. The windows, eight-paned casements and twelve-paned double-hung, are surrounded by roughly shaped stones and have large timber lintels and sills. Two attic-type windows exist on the northern elevation. The building's setting is good, with a creek at the rear and relocated slab shed opposite.

Integrity: In 1978 the roof was clad with sawn shingles, this being the third covering to the basic roof structure, the original shakes and corrugated galvanised iron remaining underneath. Split shakes could have been used rather than the sawn variety which tend to give a tailored appearance. A rear wall has been rebuilt in secondhand stone, some of which has been poorly selected and pointed in cement. The building is in basically good condition, although some cracking is evident. It is threatened by vandals and disuse.

References: Information from Mr and Mrs B. Burton, Coromandel Valley, National Trust of SA Inventory Sheet, Stark (1979) p 118, Hill (nd) p 13, Rate Assessments and Directories (see Appendix).

MacKereths joined the activity and leased some of their land to the MacKereth Mining Company in 1868⁹. The associated financial activity must have been good for the MacKereths though it appears that the 'sine qua non' for a mining boom - the precious metal - never existed.¹⁰

What must have been a waning population was probably dispersed after a bushfire destroyed all the timber dwellings nearby, and came close to destroying MacKereth Cottage in 1876.¹¹

The property was resumed on 27-5-1920 as crown land. It was subsequently occupied by a number of people who used the cottage as a residence, for storage and as a place of worship for Church of England members of the community. Finally, it was purchased, along with other properties, by the E. & W.S. for a Reservoir Reserve. The cottage was in danger of demolition but was leased to the N.T.S.A. in 1977 for 25 years¹².

2.2 Further Information

Further information which bears on the foregoing historical summary should be referred to the N.T.S.A.

9. Conservation Management Plan, op cit.

10. Hill, op cit.

11. Conservation Management Plan, op cit.

12. Agreement for Lease No. 2808 (E.W.S. 3002/75).

4. SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Statement of Significance

MacKereth Cottage dates from 1839-40. Its rude construction and isolated situation vividly demonstrates the living conditions of many early farming settlers. It has an unusual roof construction. The cottage is able to demonstrate alterations that have occurred to it as it has been adapted to accommodate a variety of pursuits engaged in by early Hills settlers.

4.2. General Criteria

The cultural significance of the Property is assessed according to the following criteria

- (i) its ability to demonstrate.....
- (ii) its associations
- (iii) its formal or aesthetic qualities.

These criteria encompass the aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, historic, scientific, social and other significance that the Property might possess.

4.3 Assessment of Significance of the Property

4.3.1 Ability to demonstrate.....

The building demonstrates simple random rubble masonry construction as well as simple timber roof framing and covering. The building demonstrates adaptation carried out to accommodate its occupiers.

4.3.2 Associational significance

The Property is associated with some of the earliest European settlement of South Australia. It is associated with early mining speculation. It is associated with an almost continual use as a residence.

4.3.3 Formal or Aesthetic Qualities

The Property is located in an isolated section of the valley which has not experienced a great deal of farming development. This isolation is probably similar to the original condition of the Property.

4.3.4 Tabulation of Significance

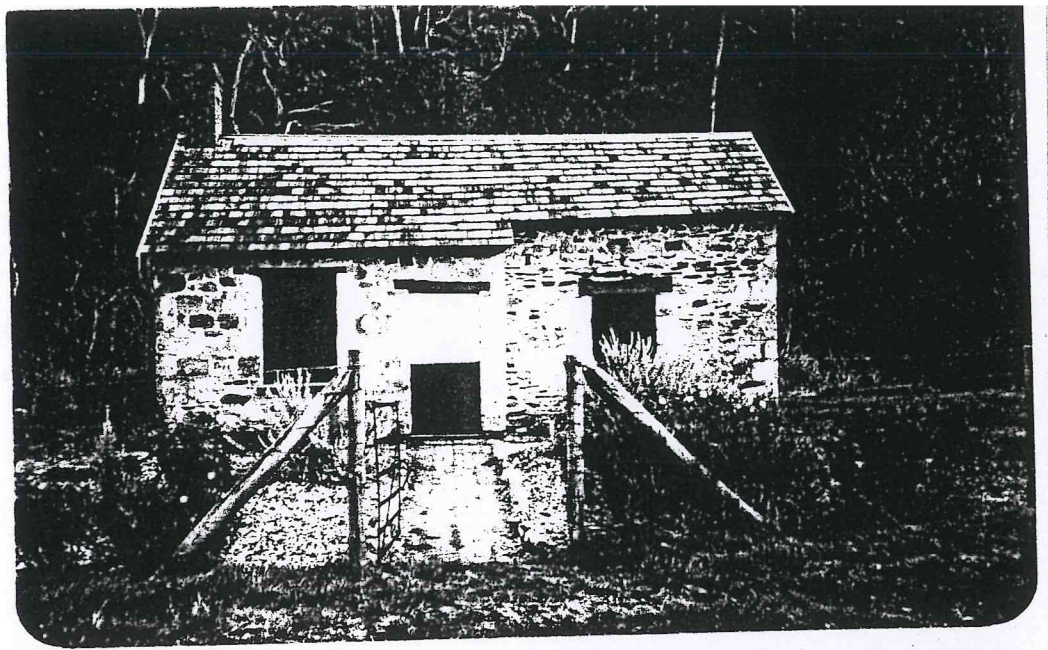
	Demons- trability	Assoc. Sig.	Formal or Aest.	Heritage Value
PART A	C.S.	S.S.	C.S.	C.S.
PART B	C.S.	S.S.	C.S.	C.S.
PART C	S.S.	S.S.	-	S.S.

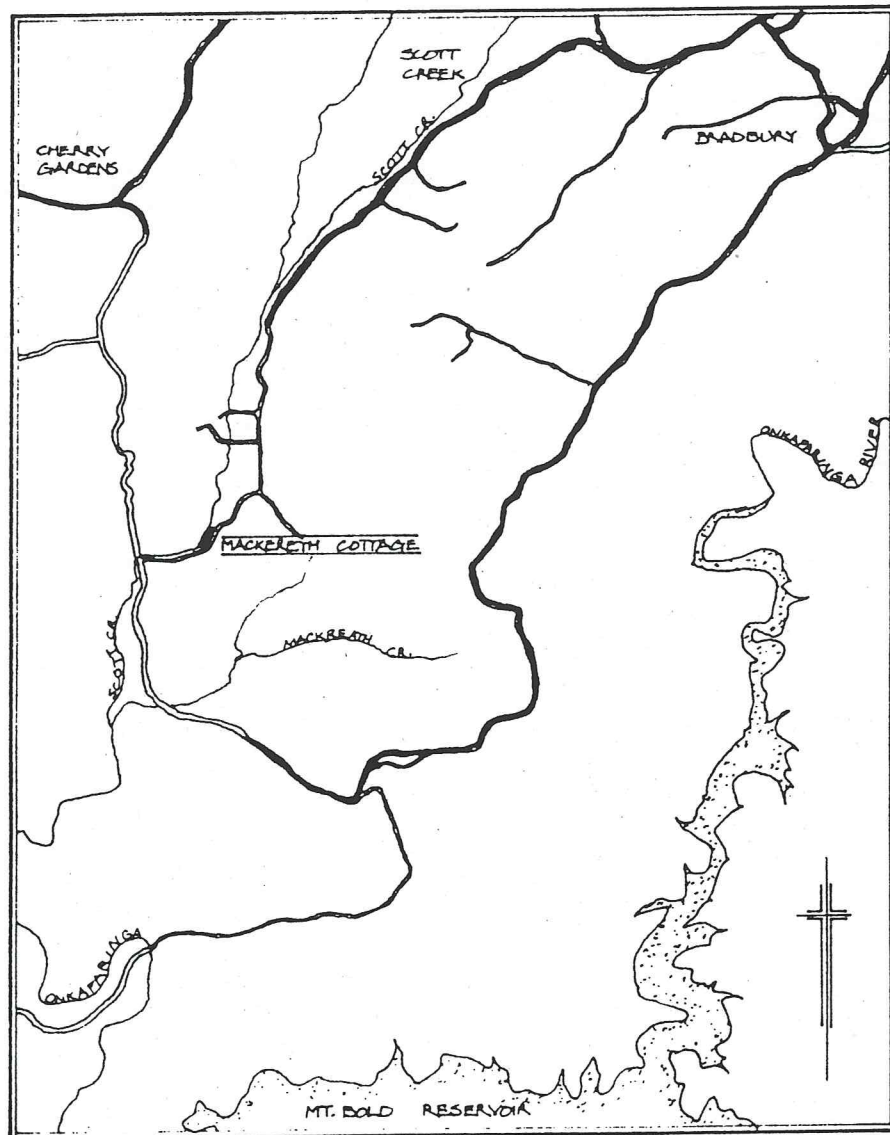
The scale of values chosen for assessing the degree of significance is:-

E.S.	-	of exceptional significance
C.S.	-	of considerable significance
S.S.	-	of some significance
Sl.S.	-	of slight significance
-	-	not relevant or not assessed
I.H.V.	-	impairs heritage value

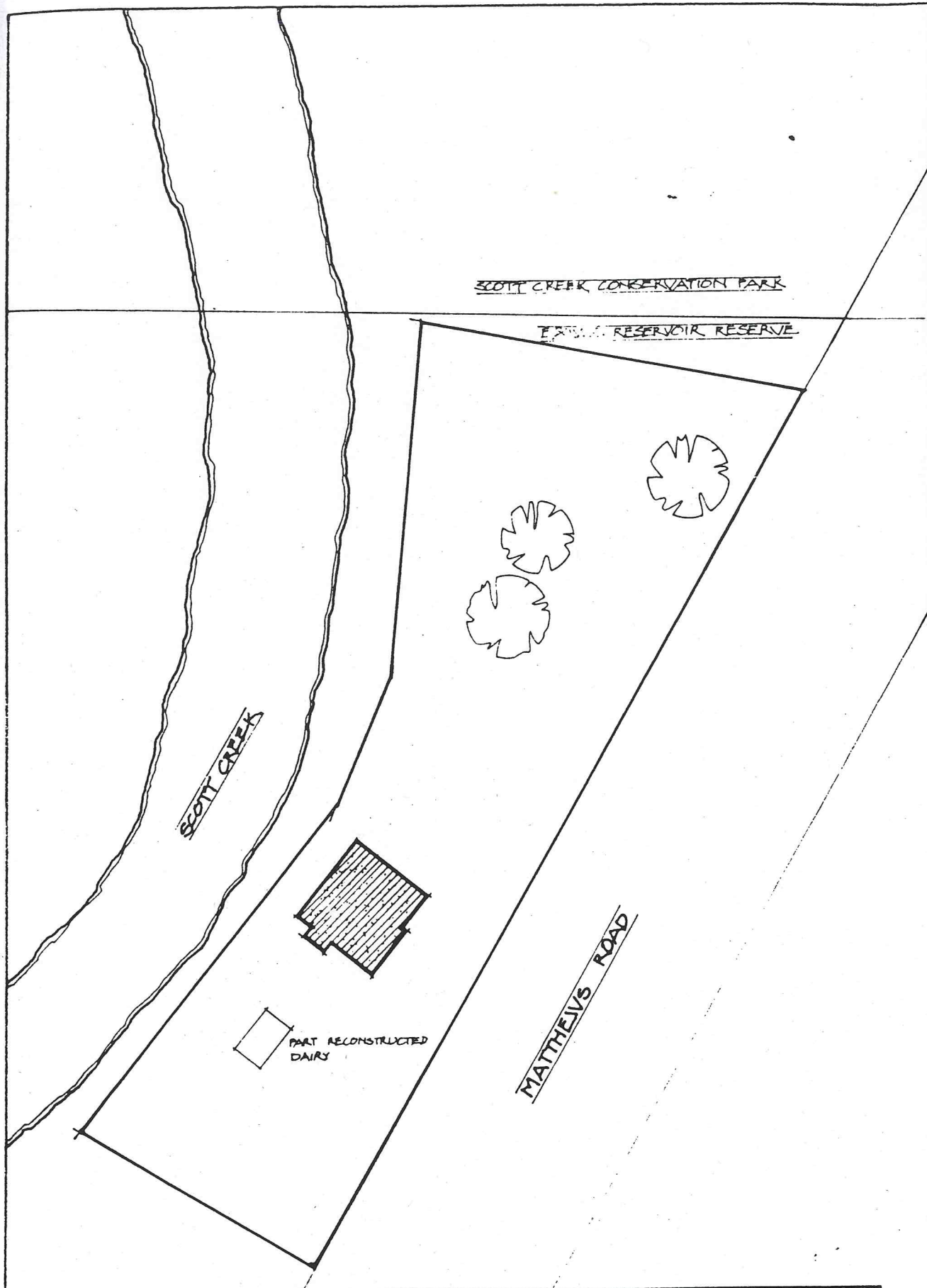
4.4 Further Information

Any information which bears on the cultural significance of the Property and which comes to light after the publishing of this Conservation Plan should be referred for consideration and review to the N.T.S.A.





MACKERETH COTTAGE
LOCATION



MACKERETH COTTAGE

KEY
PARTS A & B
PART C



SITE PLAN

